

# The Halyard

We can not control the wind but we can adjust the sails



A weekly newsletter for Virginia's Library Media Specialists  
March 26, 2004



## View From The Crow's Nest

I would like to express my thanks to all of the VEMA members around the state for the wonderful regional meetings that I have had the pleasure of attending. Each meeting brings new excitement and it is so wonderful seeing the enthusiasm that many of you bring to our profession. There are two regionals this week. Roanoke is Wednesday and Clinch is Thursday. By the way—Betsy Davis and I are specifically asking that it not rain for our drive to those meetings!



It is often interesting to watch people's faces when you introduce yourself at a social gathering and answer the question, "Where do you work or What do you do for a living?" This weekend, I was surprised at the reaction I was given when I explained my job. The person was so excited about school library programs because of an article she had read in her local paper about a school library. She had to share all about her experiences. While in college she worked in the inter-library loan office of the university library and now is employed as a researcher for a large corporation. She feels that the time spent in the library was so beneficial to the job she has now. Amazing what a newspaper article could do?

When did you invite the local paper to cover an event in your library?



I extend my thanks to Don Taylor of PBS for sharing the article about Google with me. I have included links to the articles, which I think are worthy of our reading.

**CBS NEWS SUNDAY MORNING** • Section Front

## Inside The Wide World Of Google

<http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2004/03/25/sunday/main608672.shtml>

This is a great article about Google and this quote from one of their chief executives is worth saving.

**"My guess is about 300 years until computers are as good as, say, your local reference library in doing search," says Craig Silverstein. "But we can make slow and steady progress, and maybe one day we'll get there."**



### **For Google searching tips**

<http://www.nytimes.com/2004/03/25/technology/circuits/25POGUE-EMAIL.html>

### **Linking Libraries News**

At each of the VEMA regionals, a presentation has been made regarding the Linking Libraries project. If you missed the presentation and would like a copy of the Power Point, please contact Charlie at <mailto:cmakela@mail.vak12ed.edu>

### **Public versus School Libraries** **(from a recent discussion on the AASL Forum)**

In dealing with this issue it may be helpful to remember :

- ? The school library is an instructional "space" where teaching and learning takes place that is connected to the teaching and learning that is planned for the classroom and not a place where students CHOOSE to go for information and service
- ? The media specialist is a teacher and subject to certification and licensing to work in a school--public librarians are not. If the No Child Left Behind program insists that teachers be certified in their field, then why does this not apply to school library media specialists as well media specialist spends the majority of her time during the day working with students in a class group or small group and with the teacher—public librarians do not
- ? Media specialists have legal responsibilities for what happens to students when they are under her supervision in the library that a public librarian does not
- ? The dynamics of providing services to students in a school library are not the same manner as in a public library. The important point here is that students have a "mandated" reason for using the school library in order to complete the assignment or tasks that have been worked out with the teacher.
- ? Students may be able to get the same books, Internet and other resources at the public library, but they cannot get the same assistance with the assignment. There is more to "service" than helping students FIND information.
- ? The purpose of the school library is to support the CURRICULUM of the school which is different from providing books and resources for a general audience of young people and adults
- ? Media specialists and teachers must work cooperatively for students to learn effectively. Literacy does not happen in a vacuum. Children will learn to read but they need help in learning why things happen as they do.

**Web site to visit frequently**  
**[www.loc.gov](http://www.loc.gov)**



This site has more information and resources than most teachers could possible imagine. Please make an effort to visit here often.